



OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICER
BUREAU DU DIRECTEUR PARLEMENTAIRE DU BUDGET

May 21, 2020

The Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister
Innovation, Science and Industry
235 Queen Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H5

ised.minister-ministre.isde@canada.ca

Information Request: IR0490

Dear Minister Bains:

As you are likely aware, the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) provides independent and non-partisan analysis to the Senate and to the House of Commons about matters related to the nation's finances and the economy, the estimates, certain other government documents and the cost of proposals. In carrying out my mandate, I often require information held by government departments and Crown corporations and I am entitled to free and timely access – subject to limited exceptions – to such information under section 79.4 of the *Parliament of Canada Act*.

I am currently undertaking an analysis pursuant to paragraph 79.2(1)(a) of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, which mandates the PBO to prepare reports analyzing the following federal government documents: (i) a budget tabled by or on behalf of the Minister of Finance; (ii) an economic and fiscal update or statement issued by the Minister of Finance; (iii) a fiscal sustainability report issued by the Minister of Finance; (iv) the estimates of the government for a fiscal year.

- 1) Since the last information request (IR0471), your department has announced additional measures related to the COVID-19 response. For this analysis, I am seeking data on the following three measures: \$20.1 million through Futurpreneur Canada to support ongoing lending to young entrepreneurs;
 - The number of businesses/entrepreneurs receiving support from this measure;
 - The associated dollar amounts;
- 2) \$40 million to support Mitacs in order to create 5,000 new job placements;
 - The number of job placements created;
 - The associated dollar amounts;
- 3) Funding through ISED for the national medical and research strategy, such as the \$40 million to Genome Canada for the Canadian COVID-19 Genomics Network;
 - The amount of funding transferred to Genome Canada and additional details regarding the use of transferred funds;

- 4) \$10 million for a Canadian data monitoring initiative;
- dollar amounts used.

Ideally, I would like this data to be provided on a weekly basis. However, if this is not feasible, please provide as frequently as possible.

In order to provide the analysis to parliamentarians in a timely manner, I ask the information to be provided to my office no later than **June 8, 2020**. If access to the requested information cannot be granted by that date, a response must be provided by you or your deputy minister as soon as possible.

Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Jill Giswold can be contacted directly at Jill.Giswold@parl.gc.ca, 613-297-3856.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by June 8, 2020, whether or not you provide access to the requested information. Should you refuse to provide access to the requested information, you or your deputy minister must provide a written justification for the refusal as required under section 79.41 of the *Parliament of Canada Act*.

The response letter will be posted on the PBO website and, therefore, it should not be marked "confidential". As well, the requested information should be attached separately. If this information is confidential, please clearly mark it as such, either on the electronic spreadsheet or the hard copy version.

Providing timely and effective analysis to the Senate and House of Commons and promoting greater budget transparency and accountability are the PBO's primary objectives. The degree to which this is possible depends, to a large extent, on free and timely access to quality information held by government departments. In doing so, you are assisting us in better serving the Senate, the House of Commons, and their members.

Yours sincerely,



Yves Giroux
Parliamentary Budget Officer

c.c.: Antoine Brunelle-Côté, Privy Council Office, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet,
Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy
Simon Kennedy, Deputy Minister, Innovation, Science and Economic Development

Attachment: Reply form for IR0490